FOOTNOTES

[1]The Mixtec town of Alacatlazala is located in the highlands of Guerrero, about 170 miles south and slightly east of Mexico City near the Oaxaca border. It is in the Municipio of Malinaltepec. Inhabitants of the town number about 800, although the estimated speakers of the dialect number 10,000. This dialect is largely mutually unintelligible with that spoken in the vicinity of Metlatonoc, Guerrero (Overholt 1961). Mixtec data were supplied by Juan Galindo Cano, 17, a native of Alacatlazala.

The term couplet refers to the fact that all Mixtec morphemes are basically dissyllabic when found in isolation (K. L. Pike 1948:79).

For further information on other Mixtec languages citing three tones and having the couplet as the basic unit see References, especially Bradley 1970, Hunter and Pike 1969, Overholt 1961, Pankratz and Pike 1967, Pike and Ibach 1978, K. L. Pike 1948, and Shields and North 1977. See map for relative geography of the dialect areas.

[2]Mixtec languages that cite extensive tone sandhi are described in Daly 1977, Hunter and Pike 1969, Mak 1958, Overholt 1961, Pike and Small 1974, Pike and Wistrand 1970, K. L. Pike 1948.

[3]It is difficult to hear any stress differentiation on couplets in isolation. Couplets of the CVʔV pattern appear to have extra force on the syllable beginning with glottal stop. Couplets of the other CV patterns appear to have equal stress on each syllable. The stress on the first syllable of the couplet is more prominent phonetically when the couplet is surrounded by prefixes and/or postclitics. The addition of the postclitic -ì is accompanied by a shift of the stress to the second syllable of the couplet. The stressed syllable is quite prominent in such cases. Because of the behavior of stress in the longer words it is reasonable to assume that the lexical stress is on the first syllable of the couplet. A further argument for underlying stress is the fact that when the second person sg.

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